

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Maurice M. DePalo, Chairman (2005)
Philip Hammond, Vice-Chairman (2006)
Bruce R. Card, Clerk (2005)
John I. Lebeaux (2007)
Thomas A. Fiore, Chairman (2007)

MEETINGS

The Board of Selectmen meets 2 Monday evenings per month in formal session at 7:00 P.M. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, except on holidays. The purpose of these regular meetings is to conduct public hearings, discuss and review policy with the manager, and conduct the general business of the Town of Shrewsbury. In addition the Board has held a series of intensive and detailed workshops to further the Board's understanding of the topics facing the town. These informational sessions have typically led to establishing goals and priorities for Shrewsbury. Joint meetings with other boards and commissions are held at various times as issues develop. The Topics covered include Planning and Land Use, Finance, and Public Works.

The Town Manager, Daniel J. Morgado, and Secretary Janice McCoy also attend the meetings.

The meetings are broadcast live on Shrewsbury Public Access Channel 35 and are replayed at other times for public convenience.

In addition to the above meetings, the Board holds an annual Legislative Workshop attended by our U.S Congressman, State Senator and State Representative, various elected town officials and department heads. This provides an excellent forum for our local officials to exchange ideas and concerns with state and national policy makers.

BOARD MEMBERS

At the Annual Town election held on May 3, 2004, Thomas A. Fiore and John I. Lebeaux were re-elected to the Board of Selectmen for three-year terms. The board was organized as follows: Maurice M. DePalo, Chairperson; Philip Hammond, Vice-Chairperson; Bruce Card, Clerk; John I. Lebeaux and Thomas A. Fiore, members.

TOWN MANAGER

Daniel J. Morgado continues as our Town Manager and Michael Hale continues as the Assistant Town Manager.

Mr. Morgado continues to have the full confidence of the Board of Selectmen. As a result of the Manager's annual performance evaluation, the Board expressed its continued approval of the manager's performance. The Board once

again found that Mr. Morgado performs at the highest levels. Mr. Morgado continues to handle the heavy work load of his office with exceptional expertise and knowledge. His professionalism is exemplary. The manager continues to encourage, guide and bring out the best in his department heads. The Board is very pleased with the performance of all the department heads and the professional manner in which they conduct their work.

The Manager's grasp of the financial issues facing Shrewsbury continues to be masterful. His very detailed analysis of the budget and revenue projections have given both the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee the necessary information to make difficult policy and budget decisions, as well as make informed recommendations to Town Meeting. As revenue growth has slowed and the demand for services continues to grow, Mr. Morgado has worked to balance the needs and wants of the community with the financial resources available to it.

Mr. Morgado continues to have excellent communication with the Board of Selectmen. Information flows freely from his office and the Board continues to be well informed by the Manager. The Town Meeting continues to be provided generous amounts of information so that it can make informed decisions on the articles brought before it.

The Board continues to share the Manager's belief that putting more information into the Board's, Town Meeting members' and citizens' hands strengthens the process of governing our town.

ACTIVITIES AND ISSUES

In addition to exercising its licensing and permitting authority, the Selectmen also deal with public policy issues, public works projects, state and federal issues and various issues affecting our Town. Below is a listing of the topics before the Board in 2004.

Town Common Renovation
RT 140/ Main Street intersection reconstruction
Housing Production Plan
Zoning
Sherwood Middle School Building Committee and project
Water/ Sewer Issues
Town Clerk reclassification
52 Holden Street- selling of surplus property
Local Preference Policy re: affordable housing
Snow Plowing Policy- Subdivision roads
Avalon Bay Affordable housing project
Annual Legislative workshop

BUDGET

The budget situation for Fiscal 2005 saw revenue growth decreasing and service demands increasing. Proposed budgets for the both the municipal and school portions of the town government were reduced as much as possible without reducing service levels. However, a budget gap of \$1.2 million remained.

As a result, the school committee was forced to request an operational budget override for its budget in the amount of \$1.2 million. It was defeated by a 2 to 1 margin at the polls in the May Annual Election. With the help of unexpected state aid for education and some additional cuts, the budget was balanced. As the Fiscal 2006 budget season began and the calendar year 2004 ended, the town was once again facing projected revenue shortfalls as the result of slowed new growth, reduced growth in local receipts, and anticipated reduced growth in state aid. Meanwhile, growth pressures on the budget resulting from projected dramatic increases in healthcare costs, pension costs, and costs associated with maintaining service levels the FY 2006 budget.

HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The High School/ Middle School Building Committee consists of the following members: Henry Fitzgerald, Chairman, Daniel Morgado, Town Manager, Anthony Bent, Superintendent of Schools, Maurice M. DePalo, Selectman, Robert Cox, Superintendent of Public Buildings, Richard Carney, John Masiello, Sandra McManus, and Pat Sacco.

The new High School contract was closed out after settling outstanding contract issues with the contractor. There remains some "punch list" work to be completed that will be handled through the Buildings department with available project funds.

The Oak Middle School renovation project was plagued with problems due to the General Contractor and several subcontractors filing bankruptcy. In addition a fire in portion of the building during the construction period delayed work in the fire area for months. The school, however, managed to open for school in September after a one week delay. This was accomplished in no small feat due to the extraordinary efforts of the Town Manager, with the help and support of the building committee. The school department occupied approximately 2/3 of the building that had been completed and the work continued through year end.

In spite of the difficulties, the quality of the work remained high and the project is expected to be completed within the appropriated budget.

BUILDING PROGRAMS

The May Annual Town Meeting voted to authorize design funds for the proposed renovation the Sherwood Middle School and authorized the Selectmen to appoint a building committee. The board appointed the following members: Henry Fitzgerald, Daniel Morgado, Town Manager, Anthony Bent, Superintendent of Schools, John I. Lebeaux, Selectman, Robert Cox, Superintendent of Public Buildings, Richard Carney and Katherine Nash. The committee began its work against the uncertainty of the school building assistance program, which had been halted and proposed to be revamped due to the state budget crisis.

The May Annual Town Meeting also authorized the purchase of funds for the purchase of land for a new fire headquarters on Route 20. The Town Meeting also authorized design funds and the Selectmen to appoint a building committee.

The purchase was not completed because of town concerns regarding underground contamination. The search for land and an appropriate building continued through year end. The committee has not yet been formed because of the land not being purchased. It is anticipated that an alternate building proposal will be presented in 2005.

HOUSING

The town completed its Community Development Plan and Housing Development Plan in early 2004. The plan is to serve as a guide for Shrewsbury to attain the state mandated level affordable housing (so-called "40B" housing projects) in the future. The plan was submitted to and approved by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

The Avalon Bay Development completed the permitting process for a proposed "40B" affordable housing development on Route 20. This project was submitted as a LIP (Local Initiative Program) in which the proponent works with the local community in the development and permitting process. By working with the developer, the town was able to get what it believed is a superior project from the town's perspective as opposed to the proponent proceeding with the more conventional "40B" approach, which tends to be more adversarial. The decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals was appealed by residents of an abutting neighborhood. A resolution or court decision had not been reached at year's end.

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAYS

The reconstruction of the Route 140/ Main Street intersection was substantially completed in the Fall. Traffic flow has been enhanced through the addition of a southbound lane on Route 140 at Main Street and Main Street westbound at Route 140. Through successful cooperation between Mass Highway and the Town of Shrewsbury, the project was completed with little disruption to the traffic in the area. Assistant Town Manager Michael Hale and Town Engineer John Perreault did an excellent job representing the town at Mass Highway and worked to minimize the impact to residents and businesses throughout the project.

After many years of anticipation, the reconstruction of the North & South Quinsigamond and Route 9 intersection was put out to bid and awarded by the state. Work on this much needed improvement will begin in the Spring of 2005.

The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission completed a corridor study of Route 20, which was presented to the Board of Selectmen in the Fall. The intersection of Grafton Street and Route 20 was identified as being the most dangerous along Route 20. The Board accepted the report and authorized the commission to discuss the results with Mass Highway. The intent of this meeting is to have the state agree to fund the needed improvements to the intersection.

TOWN CLERK

The May Annual Town Meeting approved the Board of Selectmen's recommendation to change the position of Town Clerk from an elected official to an appointed official that would be appointed by the Board. This change was allowed by the provisions of Town By-Laws. The Board requested the change because of its opinion that the role of the Town Clerk has expanded over the years due to state and federal laws, as well as the growth of the town. The need to have the ability to appoint a highly qualified individual in the future as opposed to one who might be politically popular was deemed necessary to continue to the high level of services the office currently provides. Current Town Clerk Ann Dagle, who the Board holds in high regard and who is doing an excellent job, agreed with the proposed change.

WATER AND SEWER

The Board of Selectmen continues to work cooperatively with the Westborough Sewer Commission and The Westborough Board of Selectmen in the process of receiving the treatment plant's Comprehensive Waste Water Management Permit. The Town is part of a consortium with Westborough, Northborough, Marlboro, and Hudson in the permit process. State and Federal mandates present potential enormous costs for plant upgrades and a study and possible improvements for the Assabet River.

The Town continues to work to upgrade the water distribution system and meet the state mandates for water conservation. Once again the Board of Selectmen instituted alternate watering days, with no outdoor watering on Mondays during the Summer watering season. It is expected this will be done yearly as the Board works to reduce consumption. The Town continues to improve its water capacity in current wells and continues to explore new well sites. The larger issue facing the town in the future is the amount of water it will be allowed by the state to draw from its water sources. Conservation will be a continuing effort in future years.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Board of Selectmen is an active member of the Massachusetts Municipal Association and Massachusetts Selectman's Association.

RECAPITULATION OF SELECTMEN'S FEES
January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004

15	Restaurant - All Alcoholic	\$ 22,500.00
1	Innholder's	1,500.00
1	Pub Club	900.00
5	General Club	3,750.00
4	Restaurant - Beer & Wine	3,000.00
5	Package Store - All Alcoholic	7,500.00
3	Package Store - Beer & Wine	2,250.00
22	One Day - All Alcoholic	770.00
11	One Day - Beer & Wine	385.00
73	Common Victualler	2,590.00
19	Weekday & Sunday Entertainment	712.00
31	Motor Vehicles Class 1, 2 and 3	3,100.00
29	Coin Operated Amusement Devices	1,620.00
16	Advertising	1,600.00
71	Garage	1,800.00
4	Junk Dealers	400.00
	Miscellaneous Licenses:	\$1,771.75
	2 Palmistry, Astrology, Card Reading	
	2 Livery/Limousine	
	5 Special Licenses	
	2 Auctioneer	
	Bowling Alley	
	Movie Screen	
	Lord's Day Licenses	
	Charges for copies of correspondence etc.	
	TOTAL	\$56,148.75

LICENSES ISSUED AND FEE SCHEDULE FOR 2004

All Alcoholic Beverage Pouring Licenses

Restaurant	15	\$1,500.00 each
Innholder	1	\$1,500.00 each
Pub Club	1	\$900.00 each
General Club	5	\$750.00 each
TOTAL	22	<i>(11) Restaurant All Alcohol Available</i>

Restaurant Wine & Malt Pouring Licenses

Restaurant	4	\$750.00 each
TOTAL	4	<i>(3) Restaurant B&W Available</i>

Package Store

All Alcoholic	5	\$1,500.00 each
TOTAL	5	<i>(2) All Alcohol Pkg. Store Available</i>

Package Store

Wine & Malt	3	\$ 750.00 each
TOTAL	3	<i>(4) B&W Package Store Available</i>